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MEMORIAL IN CONJUNCTION WITH PERRY'S VICTORY CENTENNIAL AND EXPOSITION.

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL ARTS AND EXPOSITIONS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Friday, February 18, 1910.

The committee was called to order at 10.40 a. m., Hon. William A. Rodenberg (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. This meeting has been called for the purpose of hearing General Keifer and several other gentlemen from Ohio in reference to a bill (H. R. 16363) introduced by General Keifer providing for the erection of a memorial in conjunction with Perry's Victory Centennial Exposition on Put in Bay Island, in Lake Erie.

I will state that several members of the committee expressed a desire to attend this meeting, but have been unable to do so, and have asked that the hearing be printed, so that they may be able to read the statements of the gentlemen appearing here this morning.

I think it would be a good idea if General Keifer would read the bill in connection with his remarks.

STATEMENT OF GEN. J. WARREN KEIFER, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF OHIO.

General KEIFER. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I will only take a short time, and in connection with my remarks I will read the bill, as has been suggested by the chairman.

It should be said that the bill contains much more of a preamble than is usual, and the reason for that is that it recites somewhat the history of the occasion it is proposed to commemorate and the purpose of the proposed appropriation. The bill is as follows [reads]:

A BILL To promote the erection of a memorial in conjunction with a Perry's victory centennial and exposition on Put in Bay Island during the year nineteen hundred and thirteen in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Lake Erie.

Whereas the State of Ohio by joint resolution of its general assembly, passed February twenty-eighth, nineteen hundred and eight, authorized its governor to appoint, and in pursuance thereof he did appoint, five commissioners to prepare and carry out plans for a Perry's victory centennial to be held during the year nineteen hundred and thirteen on Put in Bay Island, Lake Erie, State of Ohio, in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Lake Erie, fought and won off that island in Lake Erie September tenth, eighteen hundred and thirteen, the primary objects of the exposition to be the erection of a permanent memorial to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and the observance of the centenary of his naval victory and of the military campaigns of William Henry Harrison the same year, and of the peace of eighteen hundred and fourteen; also to take the form of an educational, military, naval, and historical exposition; and

Whereas by like resolution of said general assembly adopted in nineteen hundred and nine the governor of Ohio was authorized to and did appoint four additional members of said commission for the like purpose; and

Whereas the governors of the States of Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin by the unanimous authority of their respective legislatures have each since appointed five commissioners to likewise cooperate to the same ends and with said Ohio commissioners in such "Perry's victory centennial" so to be held; and

Whereas other States have been and still others will be invited and are expected to also appoint commissioners for the same purpose; and

Whereas said named States have taken and they and others are expected to take further action to aid in securing said centennial and exposition; and

Whereas said commissioners have organized with the name "Perry's Victory Centennial Commission," President William H. Taft and Governor Judson Harmon, of Ohio, being honorary vice-presidents thereof; and said commission has made, and it is proceeding to make, plans and suitable arrangements to hold said centennial and exposition during the year nineteen hundred and thirteen; and

Whereas it is a part of the said plans to erect on said island a permanent "Perry memorial" combining the objects of a monument and light-house, wireless telegraph, meteorological, and life-saving stations, and aquarium, to be of perpetual usefulness for such and other purposes; and

Whereas the said proposed centennial is to be national in character and to be permanently useful to the United States, and the exposition to be held is to combine utility with historical and educational significance, including educational, historical, scientific, fisheries, life-saving, and other exhibits, and a naval pageant: Therefore

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars toward the erection of such memorial and in aid of the Perry's Victory Centennial and Exposition, to be held during the year nineteen hundred and thirteen, on Put in Bay Island, Lake Erie, Ohio, the same to be disbursed by the Perry's Victory Centennial Commission, of Ohio, and such other State commissions as have been and may be appointed to and which may cooperate therewith in holding such centennial, and in the erection of a permanent national memorial monument on said island to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, which monument shall combine, as far as practicable, a suitable structure for a light-house, wireless telegraph, meteorological, and life-saving stations, to be utilized by the United States, and otherwise in aid of and in promoting the success of said centennial and exposition, including suitable government exhibits.

SEC. 2. That the making of the appropriation provided for in section one of this act shall in no way operate by implication or otherwise to require the United States to incur any debt or obligation in the erection of such memorial or in connection with said centennial and exposition.

SEC. 3. That the money appropriated by this act shall be paid out on the order of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States from time to time and to the treasurer of the organization engaged in the erection of such monument and in promoting and in holding the said centennial and exposition, and on said Secretary being satisfied the money appropriated will be disbursed for the objects, uses, and purposes expressed in section one of this act.

General KEIFER. Now, to be brief, I presume you are all acquainted with the geography of Put in Bay Island. It is located in Lake Erie at a distance of about 22 miles from Sandusky, lying in the track of transportation between Sandusky and Toledo, and Sandusky, Cleveland, and Detroit. It is called Put in Bay Island for the reason that after Commodore Perry's fleet was built at Erie, Pa., as I recollect, it assembled at these islands. There is a series of islands there, Put in Bay Island being the largest of them. There are Bass, South Bass, Kelley's Island, Gibraltar, Ballast, and Catawba islands. When the fleet went into the little harbor behind Gibraltar, it is said that it "put in" at that place, and they call the main island Put in Bay Island. That is how the name originated. There is another little island not far away, a place where they went with their little fleet just before sailing out to meet the English. There they gathered up some granite rocks, which they call "nigger heads" in my country, for the purpose of ballasting the ship before sailing, and that island is called Ballast Island.

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Now, gentlemen, I wish to call your attention to the fact that this is not a local matter, as the preamble of the bill might indicate. Already the States of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin have each appointed distinguished citizens of those States as members of the commission, as well as the State of Ohio, and they are acting in conjunction. I am advised that the New York state legislature will in a few days pass, by unanimous vote, a resolution to appoint five commissioners also, and I am informed that word has just been received of proposed action on the part of the State of Rhode Island to appoint like commissioners. I also understand that the State of Kentucky, and some other States, are expected to do the same. The reason that Rhode Island has signified her intention of appointing commissioners is that Commodore Perry was a Rhode Island man. I mention that in order to show that this is not a local movement. The importance, of course, of commemorating the action of Commodore Perry and his great victory is sufficient to cause this to be a national movement. That victory was one that led to the final peace between this country and England in the war of 1812. The battle of Lake Erie was fought on the 13th of September, 1813. General Barclay, who commanded the English, looked on from a distance, then retreated up the Thames River, was defeated, and the war came rapidly to an end; so that this event would commemorate a very great part in that important and last war with England.

As to the matter of an appropriation of $250,000, I want to say that it is not for the purpose of going into an enterprise where there is to be money made and money repaid, for this $250,000, in principal part, is to be appropriated for the purpose of erecting a monument with various appurtenances which will be fully explained by others who are more familiar with it. I would, however, say that on Put in Bay Island it is necessary to have a life-saving station, and this monument can be utilized for that purpose and so would be of permanent use to the Government. The exposition, I would say, is not to be a general exposition like that of Chicago, or that of New Orleans of long ago, or that of St. Louis, nor the recent ones at Seattle and Jamestown; but there will be important exhibits and various things of that kind, at no very great cost; and this $250,000 appropriation is practically one to build a light-house, a wireless telegraph station, and a place for other public uses.

If you will excuse me now, I will, for the present, at least, be very glad to introduce the president of the board of commissioners, Mr. Reinhart, of Sandusky, Ohio.

STATEMENT OF MR. WILLIAM H. REINHART, OF SANDUSKY, OHIO.

Mr. REINHART. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the seventy-seventh assembly of the State of Ohio passed a bill authorizing the governor of the State to appoint a commission of five to make fitting arrangements for the observation of the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Lake Erie, in the erection of a memorial and arrange for a celebration and invited the eight States bordering on the Great Lakes to participate in this memorial and celebration. The seventy-eighth assembly authorized Governor Harmon to increase the commission

to nine, and made an appropriation for the actual expenses of the commission to personally visit the various States and extend the invitation in person, the members of the commission, however, to act without compensation. The secretary, Mr. Huntington, and myself, have visited the States of Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Bills have passed both branches of the legislatures of those States authorizing their governors to appoint a commission of five to cooperate with those from the State of Ohio and other States for the purpose of erecting a suitable memorial, and to take part in this celebration.

At a joint meeting of the commissioners from these five States some time ago, the secretary and myself were selected to come here and set forth our requirements, and what we really desire in the way of aid from the National Government; and to also invite the nation at large to participate in this celebration, but not ask for any appropriation. Later, we decided to add Rhode Island to our list, on account of its being the birthplace of Commodore Perry, and also the State of Kentucky, on account of the numerous soldiers that they furnished throughout that war who were with William Henry Harrison in the northwestern campaign. Since our last meeting we have been to New York, and they have passed a bill, unanimously, authorizing Governor Hughes to appoint a commission of five, all of the commissioners to cooperate with the commissioners from Ohio and report to the governor prior to the next meeting of the assembly. We are going to visit the States of Indiana and Minnesota, but have not yet done so because they have biennial sessions of their legislatures, and when we started out we selected those States whose legislatures were still in session, so that we would not have to wait for two years for action.

Our secretary, Mr. Huntington, who has had a great deal of correspondence upon this matter and has all the notes, is no doubt prepared to inform you of what is intended. As General Keifer has said, we do not contemplate an industrial exhibition, but it will be one purely historical and educational.

The CHAIRMAN. Can you tell us something about your general plans—how much money you expect to spend there?

Mr. REINHART. I am going to have Mr. Huntington tell you about that, and I will leave that to him. But before I retire I want to thank this committee and the gentlemen here who have kindly offered their assistance, and I take pleasure now in introducing Mr. Huntington, who will give you all the information you may ask for.

STATEMENT OF MR. WESTER P. HUNTINGTON, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. The point should be emphasized, to begin with, that to apply the word "exposition" to this celebration is in a way a misnomer. It is not an exposition in the sense that it is industrial, or that there is contemplated the expenditure of a great deal of money. I believe that there have already been too many industrial expositions in the country, and we are certainly not here for the purpose of advocating another one. We call your attention also to the fact that, with respect to all of the industrial expositions that have been held, from that at Philadelphia to the Alaska-Yukon

Exposition at Seattle, and the millions expended for them by the States and the General Government, there is absolutely nothing substantial remaining. Our proposition, however, is that every dollar that shall be expended upon this project shall be spent for a permanent and material benefit to humanity.

Aside from the memorial which is the central idea of the entire project, we propose to gather together the colleges and the universities and the historical societies, and the political organizations, including municipal governments, the State and National governments, and the fraternal societies and all those that contribute to the culture and intelligence and the progress of the nation, and assemble them at this island in a convention during the progress of, say, ten or twelve weeks, dividing the time between the States participating and the National Government; and we propose out of these proceedings to make a permanent memorial in the nature of a printed volume containing the deliberations of these different bodies, a volume that will be fit to go into any library in the world, and forever commemorating the sentiment that materialized there. That would be the literary heritage of the so-called exposition. The material heritage would be this memorial which, as I said, is designed not only with reference to art and beauty, but with reference to its permanent benefit to humanity.

Now, why should the National Government take any part in it? The truth is, in my judgment, that the National Government should have initiated the movement instead of having it left to the State of Ohio to initiate. The Lord knows that Ohio has been remiss in this herself long enough. For one hundred years we have permitted this nation, and our State has permitted the remains of the killed, whose bodies were recovered after this battle, to repose there in unmarked graves upon Put in Bay Island, while we have expended millions in monuments, both civic and military, during that period all over the country, and these graves have remained neglected. I can say that in army and navy circles, whenever this subject is mentioned, it is with reproach and with some sense of shame, that men who had dedicated their lives to the service of the United States almost a century ago, the heroes who perished in the battle of Lake Erie, have been without monument or memorial.

So much for the sentimental side of it. But it should not be forgotten that when Commodore Perry sailed out of Put in Bay Harbor to meet the British he sailed under the direct orders of the Navy Department of the United States. He had built his fleet at Erie, Pa., under the orders of the National Government, and in a period of time and under circumstances that made it one of the greatest achievements in all history. He was therefore acting as the agent of the Government, and every man who perished on our side in that conflict gave up his life at the hand of the Government he was serving. Yet in all this time, one hundred years, there has been no recognition of this fact. The treaty of Ghent followed this battle only by about a year and a half, and in the meantime, after the victory, Commodore Perry sailed to the head of Sandusky Harbor, and taking away from Fremont—where the city of Fremont now stands—General Harrison and his troops and transporting them to Michigan, they there drove the British out, as General Keifer has said, fought the battle of the Thames on the 5th of October, and substantially ended the war of

1812. If you will remember, General Jackson's victory at New Orleans was fought after the war was over.

General KEIFER. After the treaty.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Yes. It is true that General Jackson did not know that the war was over—he was somewhat like some of the statesmen of modern times, still fighting although the war is over—but that does not detract in the least from the patriotic value of his great victory. But the truth is that the supremacy of the American arms was established at the battle of Lake Erie by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, and that if England had been successful in that conflict the bones of General Harrison's troops would be in the soil of Ohio yet, and Michigan would belong to Canada to-day; and if you were to draw a line from Cleveland across the country, you would ascertain that a very large part of the most valuable American domain that we have to-day, in the settlement that was made at the treaty of Ghent, would have gone to England. But, on the contrary, the battle preserved all of these Great Lake ports to the American Union, and that benefit applies to the whole country, because the traffic of the Great Lakes to-day, the tonnage of the Great Lakes, is greater than that which goes out and comes in New York Harbor; it is greater than the tonnage which goes through the Suez Canal. The commercial fleet of the Great Lakes is the greatest in the world to-day, and it contributes greatly to the wealth, the resources, and the benefits of the people of the whole country. Therefore most emphatically, as General Keifer has said, this is not a local celebration. No celebration could be local that undertakes to commemorate the progress of the whole nation, which for one hundred years has developed into this immense tonnage and immense commerce of the Lakes.

Furthermore, the nation is directly involved in this. It is proposed, inasmuch as Perry's old flagship, the *Niagara*, has lain for one hundred years at the bottom of Erie Harbor, Pennsylvania, by the representatives of that State that they will raise this relic and restore it somewhat after the manner of the restoration of Hudson's boat and take it in a triumphal course to the various ports of the Lakes during the progress of the celebration, which, by the way, would bring in immediately the participation of millions of American citizens who could not be reached in any other way. That idea has given rise to a project to substantially rehabilitate both fleets, and have the new British fleet put out of Detroit, as it did in 1812, and the American fleet put out of Erie, and to have them fight a sham battle on the scene of the real battle; and then, in celebration of the one hundred years of peace that has prevailed between Great Britain and the United States since then, to join those two fleets together and take them to the different ports on the Great Lakes, escorted by war ships of the United States Government, admitted to the Lakes by the consent of Canada and the British Government. This would have a good result upon the American navy, for the money you raise to sustain that naval armament is largely collected from taxes of the people who never see a war ship.

There have been complaints throughout the country that the naval armament exhausts our resources without giving an adequate return. They do not come from the people on the Atlantic coast nor the people on the Pacific coast, who see the navy, who have an ocular demonstra-

tion and a substantial knowledge of what it means to them; but that discontent comes from the great West, the Middle West, and the Northwest. Here is an opportunity for the Government, which I know is most welcome to the Navy Department and the officers in the service, to give a practical demonstration to the people of all that section as to what the navy is. Let them see it and take the pride in it that those who are familiar with it take. Let them see the different types of war vessels. So there is, therefore, some practical value in the spectacular side of what is proposed to be done.

But after all we come down at last to the central idea of this memorial. It is a combination of a monument, a wireless-telegraph station, a light-house, a meteorological bureau, and a fisheries exhibit. And I will say in passing that the Government already maintains on this island a very extensive fish hatchery, one of the largest in the United States.

General KEIFER. And the [illegible] also.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. And the State of Ohio also. But the national fish hatchery there is an extensive one, and it would be very natural indeed, in view of the vast fishery interests of the Lakes, that the Government should recognize the importance of this in connection therewith.

Let us take, however, the necessity of some such protection as this affords to the commerce of the Great Lakes. Last season alone there were thirty vessels wrecked on the Great Lakes. The property loss last season was $2,000,000. Nine of these vessels foundered; four of them were sunk in collisions; five of them stranded and went to pieces; twelve were destroyed by fire. If you will note the small number, only four but of the thirty, lost in collisions, it becomes apparent that all the rest stood at least the possibility of a chance of being saved if they had been equipped with a wireless system and there had been a central station from which relief could have been secured. Eight of these thirty vessels were lost on Lake Erie. The total number of lives lost—and I am talking about the lives lost in wrecks now, and not in accidents—last season was 94, and of these 52 were lost upon Lake Erie, for Lake Erie is the most treacherous of the Lakes, and that is where the greatest percentage of the loss, both as to life and property, occurs every year. So that this memorial upon Put in Bay Island will be in the most practical spot that could be found in Lake Erie with reference to the saving of human life and the saving of property.

Now, one of these boats lost last year was on fire four hours, but on account of a heavy fog that existed at that time the fire could not be seen. They were undoubtedly passed by vessels that would have seen them under ordinary circumstances; and out of that boat containing 30 people 9 men were picked up in a boat, having escaped from the vessel, and all frozen to death, the 9 corpses being frozen as stiff as an icicle. And as to that vessel that was on fire for four hours, you can cross this lake in four hours, and if that vessel had been equipped with wireless telegraphy it could have been saved a half dozen times. And that is true of almost every loss on the Lakes during the whole of the last season, and every other season. Under this beneficent dispensation of Providence that has given us wireless telegraphy losses would be vastly reduced there if proper provision should be made. According to the authority of Mr. William M.

McQuade, who is superintendent of the Cleveland wireless station, there are 2,500 vessels on the Great Lakes, an enormous fleet of passenger and freight vessels. Out of these at present only 50 are equipped with wireless apparatus, and in view of the disasters of last season Mr. McQuade is of the opinion that there will be 100 vessels of the fleet having wireless apparatus next year. That would be an increase of 100 per cent. If that continues, and it will continue, by the time this monument can be built probably all of these 2,500 vessels will have this protection.

It is estimated that a passenger boat can be operated with wireless service for ten years for $6,500, and there is no doubt but that the great financial interests back of the commerce on the Great Lakes will avail themselves of that kind of protection whenever the central station, commanding the whole lake region, can be built. That wireless station, at a height of 275 feet, may receive and discharge messages for Duluth, and even the Rocky Mountains. That is a good ways overland, and we do not expect to save any boats in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains, but I mention that fact to indicate to you that it will command the whole chain of lakes. This island of Put-in-Bay, unlike any island in any of the Lakes, is also connected with the mainland by the telegraph and the telephone, so that wireless messages sent from the top of that tower, or received from any vessel that may be in distress upon any of the Lakes, can receive the benefit of immediate communication with shore, and information may be sent through the telegraph and the telephone to the nearest life-saving station not reached by wireless on any of the Lakes. The life-saving station is already operated at Marblehead some 12 miles away.

The bureau here in Washington says that a life-saving station at Put in Bay Island would be not only appropriate, but that it is entirely desirable. It is unnecessary to say anything about a light-house, because a light-house of that height on any of the Great Lakes would be a beacon to all of the vessels within many miles.

Now, as to this structure, while it presents one single idea artistically, this base up to the 100-foot line is octagonal and of a form to give the opportunity to each one of the eight States to decorate it with such artistic windows or designs as each State may desire in commemorating some individual or some event.

Mr. NELSON. Who is to maintain this station after it is erected?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. I was coming to that, and will cover that point in a moment.

The first floor is for the reception of historical relics. This is 100 feet each way. Here [indicating upon picture of proposed memorial] is what is called convention hall, for the uses of educational and other bodies. This convention hall will seat about a thousand people, and it is desired that there shall meet there, from any place in the United States, free, those who are interested in the educational matters of American life. This tower [indicating] rises to the height of 265 feet, and there is a spectators' gallery around it near the top. There are 10 floors which may be utilized as assembly rooms for the different societies of each State, and each room dedicated to each State. There will be an elevator that will carry passengers to the spectators' gallery.

Mr. SHARP. What will be the total cost?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. The total cost of this as it is, in concrete, is about $400,000. If limestone should be used, the cost would be about $500,000. We are trying advocating the use of concrete on account of the favorable conditions there for its use.

Mr. SHARP. Have you figured on the use of granite?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. No; we think that it will cost too much money, and there is nothing more enduring than concrete if it is properly used. All of the conditions favorable for the manufacture of concrete are right there.

Mr. ANDERSON. Have you received any encouragement from the other States?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Unquestionably the responses from the other States will be generous; there is no doubt about that.

Now, a fee will be charged for the use of these elevators by spectators going to the gallery near the top. And I want to say that there is a half million people a year going to this island and to the adjacent islands, and with such an attraction as this I would hesitate to indicate in figures the number of people who would go there. The receipts from the elevator service ought to more than provide for the running expenses aside, of course, from such quarters as the Government might want to use. And if the Government wants to put a weather bureau station there, of course they will maintain it under the ordinary provisions for that service, and the same would be true as to the Live-Saving Service and the fisheries. I feel satisfied that those connected with the bureaus in Washington who would be interested in maintaining these governmental functions there would like to see this go through.

Mr. COLLIER. Has there not been a national riflery established there? I remember that several years ago the sharpshooters from the national riflery——

Mr. HUNTINGTON. I think, Mr. Collier, that that is near Port Clinton on the mainland, and about 12 miles away.

Mr. REINHART. Yes; later the station at Port Clinton was established.

General KEIFER. And called Camp Perry.

The CHAIRMAN. It is your idea that the fees to be charged for passengers will be sufficient to maintain this memorial?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. NELSON. Would you expect the Government to keep up the running expenses?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Not after its erection: not a dollar.

The CHAIRMAN. But suppose the fees were not sufficient?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. I want to say that we are not going to come back here. It is impossible that those figures will not be sufficient. If the Government will give this appropriation, no more and no less——

Mr. ANDERSON. I think it should be stated that this is not a barren island, but that it contains one of the very largest hotels.

General KEIFER. Yes; the Hotel Victory.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Yes; and that island is distinctly habitable.

Mr. REINHART. I will say that I have lived up there a portion of the year for twenty-five years, and I can tell you something about that. Put in Bay has a population of about 1,300 people. This Hotel Victory covers 6 acres of ground, and has over 800 sleeping rooms

in it. But the island contains a dozen other hotels. The minimum number of visitors in the past fifteen or twenty years has been 250,000, and from that upward every year. Consequently, these people are looking for something to entertain themselves while they are there. Boats come from all directions, Cleveland, Toledo, Sandusky, and Detroit, and the people congregate there from these excursions, some of them coming every day. We believe that the remuneration coming from the elevator will provide sufficient funds to keep that property in condition. The people in Put in Bay say that they will put a custodian in charge there, and that will not cost the National Government a cent.

The CHAIRMAN. I wish you would tell us this: You are asking assistance to the extent of $250,000 from the National Government. I would like to ask how much the Perry's Victory Centennial Commission intends to spend on this exposition themselves, and how are you going to raise the money?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. We intend to expend between $800,000 and $1,000,000.

The CHAIRMAN. In addition to the $250,000 that you expect to receive from the National Government?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. All told. There is now pending in the Ohio legislature a bill appropriating $150,000, which is all that we have asked from our own State.

The CHAIRMAN. Are any other municipalities there going to appropriate anything?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. No, sir. These are all state appropriations. There are nine other States.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you expect to get this all from the States?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. All from the States; and the National Government contributing $250,000 for national purposes.

The CHAIRMAN. And the interests of the immediate locality are not contributing anything?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. The ground. The people of this island are poor. The island will furnish the ground, and it will be the property of the State of Ohio.

The CHAIRMAN. To whom does the ground belong now?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. It belongs to private individuals. It will be purchased by the Board of Trade of Put in Bay Island, and the title will be transferred to either the State of Ohio or the National Government. So far as I am concerned, I would like to see the Government own the property.

Mr. SHARP. In view of the arguments that were made on the floor the other day in connection with a similar appropriation in the case of Valley Forge, the question seemed to be quite important in the discussions as to the fee, the ownership, and while it was celebrating a national victory of great importance, and the Government at the present time was hard up, the only objection raised was that it belonged to a certain private association. So I think it would greatly facilitate the passage of this bill to meet that point by showing that the absolute fee of that portion of the island upon which there were any improvements that they would make would rest in the United States Government.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Would there be any objection if it rested in any public ownership, such as the State of Ohio, for instance?

Mr. SHARP. Well, I don't know.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. All you say is to get away from private ownership?

Mr. SHARP. Yes.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Then it is immaterial whether it should be the State of Ohio or the National Government.

Mr. SHARP. Only the use would be almost exclusively governmental and under their control.

Mr. REINHART. Just a word here. Mr. Huntington has said that the probable cost of this would be $400,000. I think it will cost a little more than that. Four hundred thousand dollars is the minimum cost that we have figured on; but I think the cost would probably be about $500,000 if built of concrete.

Now, I will add that the commissioners of the various States have talked this matter over, and of course it is up to the Government to say who shall have the final ownership of this land upon which this memorial shall be erected. We thought at one time that the ownership should be in the eight States participating and the National Government jointly. But whether the State of Ohio or the National Government, whichever is decided upon, it is immaterial, of course, to the State of Ohio.

General KEIFER. Mr. Reinhart, do you know of any objection to the title being put, for the purposes of its use, after the monument is built, in the General Government?

Mr. REINHART. I never have heard of any objection.

General KEIFER. Could there be any real objection? This bill could be amended so as to require that.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. I think I can help in that problem a little. In the first place, there is not much danger of any conflict over the property itself, because it is worthless, for this monument is going to be built practically upon a swamp.

General KEIFER. But when the monument is built it is not going to be worthless.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Then that will be transferred to the joint commissioners of these various States, and the commissioners can transfer it to the National Government.

General KEIFER. There would be no trouble about the transfer being provided for?

Mr. REINHART. This is a part of Put in Bay Island.

Mr. BATES. How large is it?

Mr. REINHART. One thousand eight hundred acres.

[Mr. Reinhart explains the location upon a map.]

Here [indicating] are some cement mills, the largest in the United States, and within 12 miles of this location. That is why we think it could be built more cheaply out of cement, there being the sand and the gravel on the shores, and we can get that cheaply. Of course we haven't got the specifications yet.

Mr. SHARP. Who is the designer of this monument?

Mr. REINHART. Mr. Eiseman, of Cleveland, who was formerly a civil engineer.

Mr. SHARP. Are you committed in any way?

Mr. REINHART. No. We have simply gotten this together as something to talk over, but we would not commit ourselves until the funds are provided.

Mr. BATES. Has there been a joint meeting of the commissioners of these several States?

Mr. REINHART. Yes, sir.

General KEIFER. And Pennsylvania has participated.

Mr. REINHART. We have had a joint commission of five States who have appointed commissioners, and the other States not meeting; Indiana and Minnesota do not meet until next year. We of course would not decide just what should be done until we get those commissioners, as well as those from New York. We had one meeting of the five States, on December 3, at Toledo.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. At that time the joint meeting approved the report which you have in your hand, Mr. Bates.

Mr. REINHART. We had a joint meeting at Toledo of the five States, being the commissioners from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

The CHAIRMAN. You do not know at this time to what extent these different States will participate?

Mr. REINHART. No, sir.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. I would like to say that the action was unanimous in every instance, and that in New York State we found Governor Hughes not only amenable to the proposition but most enthusiastic about it, and who without our knowledge sent a letter to the finance committee of the senate advising that, in his judgment, this would ultimately result in an appropriation, and expressing the hope that they would see that the proposal went through because he believed that New York ought to take part in it. Every State understands that it means money; there is no disguising that fact, but it does not mean much money, and every one of these States have appropriated more money for St. Louis and Chicago than they have been asked to put into this. Every one of those buildings in those two cities cost from $75,000 to $150,000, whereas we should have only $50,000 from each State. We had abandoned the means to be derived from the aid of the National Government.

Mr. REINHART. The consensus of the opinion of the commissioners who met in joint session was that they would wait until the National Government made an appropriation, and that they would make theirs accordingly. If we receive $250,000 from the National Government, then possibly the average appropriation of these States would be about $50,000. We are asking $150,000 from Ohio because there is a great deal of work to be done by Ohio, and we will need more money from Ohio than any other State. Besides, as I stated in my former remarks, it is provided in each bill that the States shall cooperate with Ohio and the other States and report back to the governor prior to the meeting of the next assembly, and I presume they will have a recommendation for an appropriation which they see fit.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Let me say right here that this will be free; no admission charged; and there is no way to make money excepting in the advertising.

General KEIFER. Won't you charge some admission to the special exhibits?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Yes.

Mr. POINDEXTER. This bill seems to be an absolute grant of $250,000 without any proviso or condition that any other amount of

money shall be raised by the States; that is, the $250,000 is to be furnished by the Government without any restrictions whatever. And suppose the States should not contribute a sufficient amount to complete this structure, then what situation will we be in?

General KEIFER. If you will allow me to suggest, there is some protection against any trouble of that kind in the last section of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. I merely want to say that in all expositions that we have ever had heretofore the Government has always been the last to be appealed to and has always known just exactly what the States would do in the different localities. But here you do not seem to know yet what the States are going to do.

Mr. ANDERSON. And Mr. Reinhart stated that he would not hear from two of the States until next year. That will make it 1912, will it not?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. No; they will meet in 1911.

Mr. ANDERSON. And this exposition will be held when?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. July 4, 1913, and close on or about September 10 of the same year.

Mr. ANDERSON. That will give you about a year yet.

General KEIFER. That will give them two years from July of next year, 1911.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. I would like to make a suggestion in answer to the chairman. In regard to the other expositions that have come here with certain financial backing, what the chairman said is true, but they came from centers of wealth, and in part, as a rule, with some business, selfish reasons; and they expected to get a certain revenue from their exposition because it was industrial in character. Whereas this proposition comes from poor people and not from any municipal corporation and not from any city directly interested. It would be easy enough to organize a stock company and sell stock for an exposition in any State in the United States, but in this case we are interested in a little island of historical importance only.

The CHAIRMAN. How far from a large town?

Mr. REINHART. Twenty-two miles from Sandusky; 44 miles from Toledo. Detroit is 62 miles and Cleveland 65 miles.

I wish to say further that the reason we ask the National Government for this appropriation is that this is commemorating a national event, and nothing local. It is commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of the battle of Lake Erie and the victory of Commodore Perry.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. And we believe it is for a national purpose.

Mr. REINHART. And simply because the battle was fought on Ohio soil Ohio has taken the initiative.

Mr. POINDEXTER. Do the people in that vicinity celebrate the anniversary of the battle of Lake Erie?

Mr. REINHART. Oh, yes.

Mr. CASSIDY. In the city of Cleveland there are exercises held in September every year, and it is called "Perry Day."

Mr. REINHART. A few years ago a small monument was erected by the Hotel Victory in the park, which is about a mile and a half from this location, and Vice-President Fairbanks spoke there. Mention was made of the fact that these graves were unmarked. They have a number of cannon balls, small monuments, put up there by

the citizens of Put in Bay, and the expenses of even that mark of respect were defrayed from the proceeds of a dramatic company. The cannon balls were erected upon little stones and put over the burial places of the soldiers.

Mr. CASSIDY. I will say that there is also in the city of Cleveland a monument erected to Commodore Perry.

Mr. STEENERSON. I would like to ask whether this commission have any jurisdiction in this case. The association is the Perry's Victory Centennial Commission, and Mr. Huntington says it is a misnomer to call this an exposition. There does not seem to be any exposition about it.

General KEIFER. Oh, yes; there is.

Mr. STEENERSON. There is in the bill, but not in this pamphlet that describes it. This is called the "Report of the Perry's Victory Centennial Commission to the Governor of Ohio."

The CHAIRMAN. But we would have to be governed by the provisions of the bill, Mr. Steenerson.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. We call it an historical, educational, and patriotic exposition.

Mr. STEENERSON. The gentleman stated that that name was a misnomer. There does not seem to be any exposition about it, and we have nothing to do with it, as I understand it. The bill should be governed by the constitution and by-laws of the association.

Mr. REINHART. I think the gentleman means that it is not an industrial exposition, but it will be an exposition so far as the fisheries and the life-saving station is concerned.

Mr. SHARP. It seems to me, after hearing these splendid addresses as to the purchase of this memorial, that there should not be any difference of opinion, and before I get through I want to move the adoption of the resolution, and that the remarks of Mr. Huntington be printed and distributed to the Members of Congress. While we were all present the other day when we had this discussion on the floor for an appropriation of, I think, $25,000 for building a memorial at Valley Forge, it was claimed at the time to be more or less of a local purpose, although national at the time in its results. But without disparaging the work there, the purpose or the patriotism of those men who fought to preserve the Union at that time, it seems to me not comparable to this project in importance. We established at that time our prestige upon the seas as a naval power; it gave us our first start. It seems to me that if this purpose is thoroughly understood by the Members of Congress, that the appropriation will be safeguarded, that amendments will be made to this bill, and I would suggest here that some provision be made that the contribution on the part of the Government of $250,000 be the last amount to be paid in upon this work after all the other appropriations have been made by individual state legislatures, and that the sum of $800,000 or $1,000,000 be what is raised and absolutely used, if you please, in the construction of this memorial and other work, and that the last contribution shall come from the Government, which would be an absolute safeguard.

It seems to me, too, that the purposes of this splendid monument here and tower that is proposed will of themselves appeal strongly to the Members of Congress as utilitarian in every respect. I was impressed by the gentleman's remarks when he spoke about the life-

saving feature of the work. In this river and harbor bill, of which committee I see there are two or three very strong and capable members present, and in whose work I heartily concur, there was an appropriation of something like $45,000,000, I believe. All of that splendid work comes almost directly out of the result of that splendid naval victory of Commodore Perry and his little fleet nearly one hundred years ago. Yet this contribution that is now called for represents less than 1 per cent of the entire amount that this Government is called upon to use in making this appropriation, and but once in a century, while this other appropriation is made practically every year, or at least every other year. This that we are advocating is of permanent good.

In closing, I wish to say that while I understand there will be more or less of an effort made to have home labor and the use of home material in the construction of this work, I appreciate the importance of that, and I would like to see that done for sentimental reasons. I have been so thoroughly impressed with the durability of granite, its superiority in appearance, that I am throwing out at this time, at this stage of the proceedings, this suggestion: That when this committee actually gets down to business and undertakes to draw plans and specifications, they give careful and earnest consideration to the superior merits and claims of granite for that structure, not only because it is infinitely more beautiful, but we know that a monument built of granite here will endure practically for all time, to celebrate the victory that should be kept in our minds for all time.

Mr. REINHART. Along the line of Mr. Nelson's suggestion, after this exposition is over, which would be some time in September, then the Government will have expended its $250,000, and it would not be called upon at all to maintain or keep up any of the matters——

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Excepting its own quarters.

Mr. REINHART. Yes; excepting its own quarters.

General KEIFER. It would maintain the light-house; it would have to do that, the same as it maintains other light-houses.

Mr. NELSON. If the fee is in the Government, will we not be in duty bound to keep up the repairs, and so forth?

General KEIFER. In regard to that suggestion, on reflection I think it might be inferred that if the fee was in the Government it would mean that the Government should maintain it, but is not the Government to maintain it, anyway? The Weather Bureau is expected to be there.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; it seems to me that it would be devoted almost entirely to government purposes.

General KEIFER. Yes; the fisheries, the life-saving station, all of those things the Government would have to take care of, anyway, and it would insist upon doing it. As to the matter of the elevator and its self-sustaining character, there might not be any great objection to the Government taking care of it after the close of the exposition.

Mr. BATES. I wish to say just one word. I was asked by the president of the Pennsylvania board of commissioners to appear here to-day and say that the Pennsylvania commission would be glad to cooperate most heartily in this celebration. Mr. Sisson, the chairman of the Pennsylvania commission, is a resident of my own district, has been in the State senate for some ten years, and has just been chosen auditor-general of the State. I think there is no doubt but

that the Pennsylvania legislature, when it meets, will cooperate in a substantial way to make this a signal celebration.

The ships of Perry's fleet were built in my district, and the trees grew upon the soil bordering upon Lake Erie, and the ships sailed out from the bay formed by Presque Isle peninsula.

Reference is made in this report of the commission to the raising of the flagship *Niagara*. I would like to state that about two years ago I prepared a bill, passed it through the Naval Committee and through the House, appropriating funds to raise the old boat *Niagara*, which lies in the bay. Senator Hale, chairman of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, did not seem to want it to go through the Senate, and it did not pass the Senate. That was some two years ago. My purpose in addressing the chair was, however, to state that the Pennsylvania commission desires to cooperate in every possible way in making this a fitting celebration, and I note in one of the preambles of General Keifer's bill that it is to be national in character, so that I hope that the title, the fee, of this land will be for that reason placed in the United States, and that it shall be considered a cooperation of these States in a national celebration merely because the victory was won at Put in Bay and located at that place.

General SHERWOOD. Gentlemen, I think this question has been handled sufficiently already. As has been well said by General Keifer and by the secretary and president of the association, this was the most signal victory of the war of 1812. It settled the question of the supremacy of the American Navy on the Great Lakes, and I think it was the most signal victory ever fought on fresh water; and it was fought by a volunteer officer who was never before under fire, and against one of the most experienced naval officers of the British navy—a man who fought with Lord Nelson at Trafalgar.

Now, the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac, for instance, did not settle anything. It was not a signal victory. It settled the question as to which was the most effective and the most invulnerable engine of death. It did not settle anything vital in connection with the war. Admiral Farragut's victory at Mobile, another brilliant achievement, did not settle any contention of the war. But this battle did settle the war practically between the United States and Great Britain. The victory of General Jackson at New Orleans was a very remarkable victory and one, under all the circumstances, of the most remarkable ever fought in this country considering the forces engaged. But the treaty of peace at Ghent had been ratified on the 24th of December, 1814, and General Jackson's battle was fought on the 8th of January, 1815; so it was not a signal victory, because it was not a battle that settled anything. The great question had already been settled.

Now, we have at Put in Bay, among those islands in Lake Erie (emerald gems that stand up from the surface of the lake), perhaps the most attractive spot in the summer months on the American continent. They are very accessible. We have six steamboat lines running to them. There is a daily steamboat line from Cleveland, also from Sandusky (20 miles distant), and a daily line from Port Clinton; a daily line from Toledo, one from Detroit, and I understand there is a line from Leamington, Canada. This celebration, commemorating the most signal victory of the war of 1812, will attract continental interest, because General Harrison's victory at Fort

Meigs in May, 1813, followed by General Crogan's victory at Fort Stephenson (Fremont), and culminating in Perry's victory at Put in Bay on the 10th of September, practically settled the war between the United States and Great Britain. In celebrating this victory we inculcate a virility of patriotism that should be vital and valuable to the whole American people.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. I just want to say in conclusion that the members of this committee have a right to know what condition of public sentiment the commissioners have discovered in going about in six or seven different States. I apprehend that the gentlemen who compose this committee have no other desire than to do what the people want, and I can say this in all sincerity, that this project absolutely has the unanimous support of the people of the country. It has been presented to the press countless times in different places covering a wide expanse of country. It has received the support of the newspapers from the first; it has been indorsed by the National Convention of American Fisheries, the highest representative body regarding fish culture in the world. Wherever we have been the response of the members of the legislatures and the governors of these States have been immediate and cordial and emphatic, and we have become convinced that the people of the country generally want it. We therefore hope that the committee will see its way clear to give the representatives of the people at least an opportunity to vote upon it.

Mr. REINHART. I want to refer to a question that has been asked here, and to say that the States bordering on the Great Lakes are interested in this enterprise, first, because they have a large lake frontage, and secondly, because the treaty of Ghent settled all questions relating to the northern boundary. But you must recollect that this is in commemoration of a national event, and Mr. Sharp has referred to the monument being vested in the National Government, yet has proposed to put a string upon the appropriation made by the National Government, that it should not be expected until the funds of the States had been appropriated. It would seem to me that the States will say that if the National Government shall desire to have the right of ownership rest in its name, and that the celebration shall have somewhat of the proportions of a national event, and yet that the money from the Government can not be secured until it is absolutely needed, that they may make objections. If the National Government wishes to have supervision over this memorial, and over the land, I believe that your appropriation ought not to have any string tied to it. I think the States will respond, but I think that the appropriation of the Government should be given without any string tied to it.

Mr. ANDERSON. Did I understand you to say, Mr. Huntington, that there were a great many soldiers buried there without any marks of recognition of any kind?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. There are 18 officers of the fleet buried there without any marks over their graves at all. Of course most of the men who died with Perry are at the bottom of the lake.

General KEIFER. But individual marks are not there at all. They merely have some cannon balls piled up to indicate the places.

Mr. ANDERSON. If for no other reason, I think we ought to recognize that fact in the passage of this bill.

Mr. POINDEXTER. How much of a harbor have you there, Mr. Huntington?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. It is a good harbor; one of the finest.

Mr. POINDEXTER. What is the depth of the water?

Mr. HUNTINGTON. It has the depth of about 21 feet.

Mr. ANDERSON. As has been explained by General Keifer, Put in Bay Island is located in Lake Erie, about 22 miles from Sandusky, which is located in my district, and I am somewhat acquainted with conditions on the island.

This proposition should appeal to every member of this committee, as money appropriated upon this project will be a permanent benefit and has now been too long delayed, and it is a shame and disgrace that these soldiers who died to save the country have not had a suitable monument or memorial many years ago.

In the event of large crowds attending the exposition, there will be plenty of accommodations to take care of them, as Put in Bay has a dozen hotels and boasts of one of the largest hotels in the country, and there are plenty of steamboat lines from Sandusky and Toledo.

As has been stated by Mr. Huntington, the Government will not be put to further expense, as this project will be self-sustaining from receipts from the elevator service, etc., and half a million people will visit the island each year.

Great crowds visit these islands every year, and especially to Cedar Point, Kelleys Island, and Lakeside, all close to Put in Bay. The railroad facilities to Toledo and Sandusky are the very best in the country, as the largest trunk lines pass through them.

As the time is not far distant, I hope this committee will make a favorable report.

(Adjourned at 12 o'clock noon.)

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